

# Big River Journey Fall 2007

## What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards.

## Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology\*
- Floodplain forest\*
- Dakota culture\*
- Soldier hike\*

\* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Field trip location

Mississippi River, aboard the *Anson Northrup* riverboat and at Fort Snelling State Park

Riverboat travel is between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

## Field trip dates & times

September 24, 25, 27 and 28, 2007

Start times: 9:30 a.m. (at Harriet Island) or 10:00 a.m. (at Fort Snelling State Park)  
Boat trip duration: 1¾ hours.

All trips are **one-way trips** that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (not “*Historic Fort Snelling*”) as follows:

- **Board paddleboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island**, St. Paul, for a 9:45 departure. Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partner. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

**OR...**

- **Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) Visitor Center at 10:00** for a land-based session at 10:15 a.m. with state park or other partner staff and time for a brown bag lunch. **Paddleboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return buses will load.

## Participation requirements

### 1) Attend a Big River Workshop.

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended in the past five years. At the “Big River Workshop” teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher’s Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

#### **Workshop location:**

Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, classroom #5-6

#### **Workshop date:**

Wed., August 29, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Optional visit to Mississippi River Visitor Center and River Gallery follows.

#### **Workshop registration:**

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

#### **Workshop cost (donation):**

\$15/person or \$25/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to “Mississippi National River & Recreation Area” and write “BRJ workshop donation” on the memo line. Send to:

Attn: Kathy Swenson  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

### 2) Preparation & follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (information provided at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

## Field trip fee: \$7.50/student

Field trip billing and payments are handled by the *Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc.*, ph: 651-227-1100.

## Scholarships

Scholarships to reduce field trip cost are available for qualifying schools. Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. The field trip fee for approved scholarship schools will be **\$2.50/student**. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal; written confirmation will be sent. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. To request a scholarship **contact Brian Goodspeed** at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.



# Big River Journey Fall, 2001

National award-winning  
**Mississippi River**  
**field trips**  
since 1996

**grades: 4-6**

**Coordinated by**  
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area  
(National Park Service)  
in cooperation with the  
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

**Program partners**  
Center for Global Environmental Education  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area  
Mississippi River Fund  
Padelford Packet Boat Co.  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community